Pass Christian Area
1699 1999
Colonization Tricentennial

PASS CHRISTIAN, MS

The Tricentennial

Volume 1, Issue 14 November 25, 1998

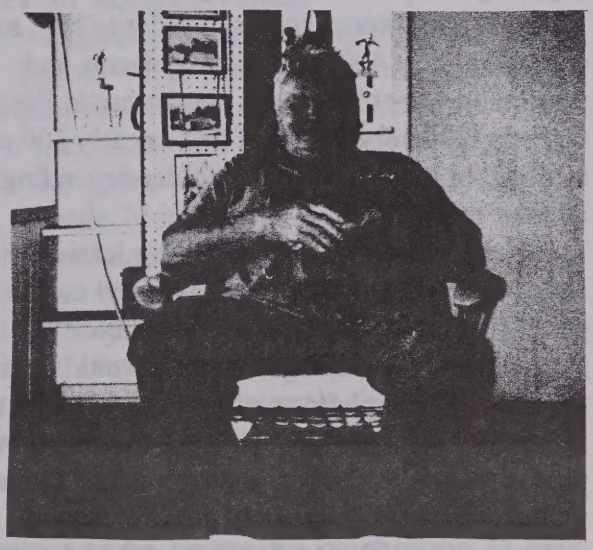
Kick-Off '99!

Get ready for January 14, 1999! Those folks who attended the 1998 "Kick-Off" savored great cuisine contributed by local restaurateurs, which included Annie's Restaurant, Cafe du Soleil, Cafe St. Louis, Chimneys, Harbor View Cafe, the Rusty Pelican, and the Harrison County Sheriff's Kitchen. -- And they participated in an exciting and informative program as they cheered on the program speakers that set the stage for enlivening the heritage of Pass Christian.

Chairman of the Events Committee, Ken Austin, sees the 1999 KickOff as the time and place to outline a wonderful and exciting schedule of activities and projects, which have been in formulation during this past year.

Significantly, the Tricentennial Committee has made astounding strides during the year. This includes two splendid exhibit forms that were donated. The sculptured d'Iberville bust by Michelle Smith; and the replica of the d'Iberville Stone by Brian Nettles. But, that's not all! There's more on the way! A sneak preview was unveiled at the last Board of Director's meeting -- a scale model of the Pass Christian Lighthouse Lot. It includes the exact scaled replica of the lighthouse tower, the lightkeeper's house, and the landscape that typifies the period of 1831, including what the beach and Front Street would have looked like. This effort was produced and researched for accuracy by Buddy Diboll. Completions will be finalized in time for an official showing of this master piece at the "99 KickOff Supper" on January 14, 1999. What a way to open the year in commemorating 300 Years, -- 3 Centuries since d'Iberville's coming to the Coast.

BILLY'S PICTURES



by Jessie Heitzmann

Memories flash across the screen
As each frame comes into view.
Vivid scenes of years gone by,
Nostalgic feelings again renew.

A city that I knew so well,
People I shall ne'er forget,
An essence so bewitching
That it lives within me yet.

Pictures, too, which grab my heart
And clutch with claws of steel,
Of splintered homes, and broken dreams
And scars that time alone may heal.

These, I cannot gaze upon
Without a silent tear
And a deeper sense of reverence
For those who suffered here.

Precious are these images
That tie us to the past.
When we become but memories,
Tis they alone will last.

BILLY'S LOVE

Believe it or not, Billy Bourdin is now hooked on computers. He has long realized that he ran out of wall space to hang his lofty collection of heritage photos and also that he has run out of space in his "study" where file cabinets hold up other file cabinets and shelves have been re-shelved over and over again.

Besides maintaining a storage for all of the original source material, including nearly a century of past local newspapers, magazines, periodicals and anything else printed about the Pass, he has studiously made selective xerox copies in order to clip, sort, and compile almost 400 categories of events and personalities that have been significant to Pass Christian's history. Each of these nearly 400 categories is stored in its own binder or folder depending on the amount of data.

He was gleeful upon getting Jessie Heitzmann's elated interest in making computerized copies of his photos. However, she didn't really know what was in store for her. She thought the task would be limited to the few hundred photos on his walls, but as it turns out, she is now computer scanning the other volumes of photos that he has had in photo albums. These photos include every house that exists in the Historic District and every photo that he has collected on houses and buildings that existed not only before Hurricane Camille, but before the 1947 hurricane and some before the 1915 hurricane. He has photos of building sites that are today a jungle.

Nevertheless, his love for collecting, sorting and collating this heritage is a boon to the community with which he is eager to share and now realizes that computer technology is within his grasp in order to protect his outstanding and abundant heritage collection.

Not a person, local resident, or out of town visitor, has ever left without being well impressed and more informed than prior to their visit to his place on Davis Street. Billy says he has gone through three copying machines and now approaching age 70, with a typing proficiency, he can make himself adept at the computer which he heretofore shied away from. **Three cheers for Billy!**

All Hail theHero! George McDonald

Pass Christian City Hall was jam packed with family and friends of George McDonald as he was honored after 33 years in recognition of his heroic valor during a battle in Vietnam. Mayor Billy McDonald stood proud as he remarked that his six-foot-three cousin was always called "Little George" to differentiate from his father, "Big George."

The Bronze Star pinning was formally presented by Maj. General Fletcher Coker of the Mississippi Army National Guard as he apologized for the tardy recognition of George's valorous feats. Lt. Colonel Tim Powell read the orders as signed by the Secretary of War.

It read, "For meritorious achievement at the risk of life, Specialist Four George J. McDonald, while participating in a search-and-destroy mission in la Drange Valley of Vietnam with the 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry on November 14 and 15, 1965, distinguished himself by valor in action."

"Upon landing in a helicopter assault, he aggressively took the attacking North Vietnamese enemy under fire from an exposed position with his grenade launcher. Expending his ammunition, he then joined his mortar crew in the assault. He then secured an M-16 rifle and resumed firing at the enemy."

"The next morning when the company was heavily attacked, losing all its officers, killed or wounded, and another 60 men killed or wounded, he bravely stood his ground throwing hand grenades and firing a grenade launcher, contributing greatly to a successful defense of the company position. Specialist Four McDonald's valorous actions were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Army, 7th Cavalry Regiment, and reflect great credit on himself and the military service."

Pass Christian is proud of George and all other Veterans who have served their country. A job well done, George!

CHRISTMAS IN THE PASS
A GROWING FAMILY EVENT

Christmas in the Pass had its first extravaganza on Thursday, December 5, 1985. The Merchants committee was headed by Paige Reed backed up by the City and the Chamber of Commerce. Santa held forth at St. Paul's Gym for photo sessions with the kiddies who were left under supervised play. The kids also enjoyed the Christmas story-hour while awaiting their parents who were free to go shopping. The streets were filled with bands, and singing carolers as special treats were offered to the strolling tourists who dropped by the shops decorated with Christmas lights and ornaments. The tree lighting ceremony at Memorial Park was an enlivening event.

Christmas in the Pass II was celebrated in like fashion on Friday 5, '86 with innovations such as a contest for the best decorated business, house and boat. Santa dropped in by Helicopter to the music of a second line Jazz Band that entertained the visitors who later vied for a *"Buying Spree"* drawing. Fireworks ended the celebration.

By its third year, the rapidly growing celebration had gained a reputation throughout South Mississippi as an evening the whole family could enjoy. Santa arrived at Memorial Park and paraded down Scenic Drive to Second Street where he sat for photos and listened to the children's wish lists. The Merchant open houses encouraged the thousands of guests to register for prizes as they crowded the streets filled with merriment.

Christmas Four was fouled by bad weather, bad communications and bad politics. It was cold, wrong date was posted in the Sun Herald Marquee, and the City Lighting program fizzled.

Christmas V got things back in line and Christmas VI brought in more embellishments with a tractor pulling Santa on a sleigh followed by a horse drawn carriage. Street lighting for the City was handled by the Volunteer Fire Department, kids loved the "Holly Trolley" rides, entertainment by several groups including the Keesler Drum and Bugle Corps, choirs from local churches, gumbo cook-offs, a Seafood dinner at St. Paul's, all happily transpiring while some venturers had their faces painted in Christmas cheer. The Kids encountered the Choo-choo train rides which has also become an added annual tradition.

With further innovation in 1990, *Christmas in the Country* was introduced by the St. Paul Altar Society offering open houses and Christmas Tea at eight neighboring family homes off Menge Avenue.

Drawing upon the City's richest assets the harbor has become jumping with anticipation with beautiful lights cascading down the masts and sails of the boat parade while the downtown historic district explodes into a huge block party with safe-havens at each Merchant's shop offering warm mugs of chocolate or spiced rum-flavored beverages with holiday cookies. As Santa alights from the North Pole he passes out candy canes to young and old as he signals the Annual Tree Lighting in the Park, abundantly decorated by its benefactors, Mr. and Mrs Rand Jones.

This year, *Christmas in the Pass XIV* promises to be as great a celebration as past years. Merchants have been making ready as a display of gratitude to their patrons. This is your night to share in Christmas cheer on the closed downtown streets of Pass Christian. See you on Friday, December 4, 1998.

Annual Christmas Party

The Freinds of the Library are hosting their annual "Wine and Cheese" Chrstmas Party on Sunday, December 6th. from 5:00pm to 7:00pm.

Paul Bode, President

New Orleans Fires

by Dan Ellis

It was early afternoon of Good Friday, March 21, 1788, when an altar candle in a chapel in the military treasurer's home set alight the draperies of the altar. The flames quickly devoured the wooden building and spread to others. The greater part of the town was burned. All the government buildings and documents including the Cathedral and the priests' rectory were among the losses.

The story goes that because it was Good Friday, the clergy refused to allow the church bells to ring out a general alarm.

A few years later, a second fire occurred on December 8, 1794, as flames broke out in a courtyard on Royal Street. However, it only burned a third as many buildings as the previous one, but it was more expensive because of the devastation to merchant stores and private mansions in the French "old town." The only surviving dwelling from the time of Bienville, was "Madame John's Legacy", which still stands today.

In the rebuilding process, most homes and buildings took on the Spanish mode of architecture which was more befitting to the climate. The new trend was with thick walls pierced with noble arches, high-ceilinged rooms, fanlight windows above the doorways, wrought iron balconies, patios, and arcaded streets which created the Vieux Carré.

* * *

During the mid-1830s, there was increased discontent by Americans who accused the Creoles (French or Spanish origin) of wielding too much power. The result was that the State Legislature divided New Orleans into 3 separate municipalities; the Vieux Carré, the Faubourg Ste. Marie, and the Faubourg Marigny. Needless to say, at the end of 16 years, the tripartite government was terminated as being wasteful and unnecessary. Thereafter, the seat of government was moved from the Cabildo to the new City Hall designed by Gallier. Rendering the beauty of Greek Revival architect, it is still standing before Lafayette Square.

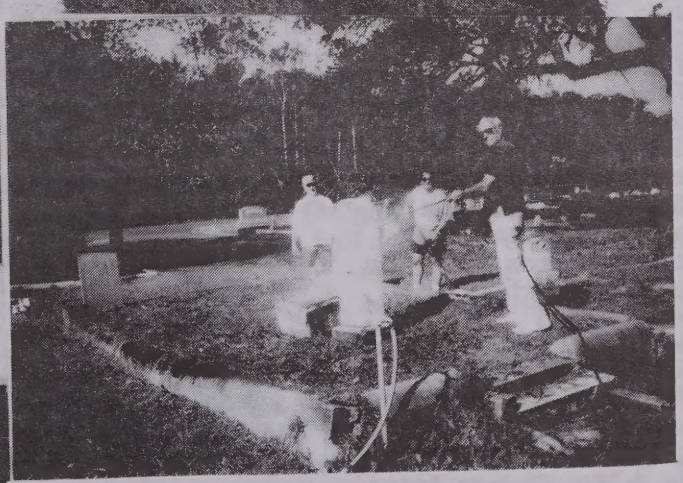
CEMETERY CLEAN-UP

Even though many of the folks who showed up to clean and beautify the Live Oak and St. Paul cemeteries, everyone rolled up their sleeves and dug in to honor those who have gone before us. The Tricentennial Committee's effort was spontaneous, more than just the volunteers showed up on All Hallow's Day. There were also many family members who attended in reverence for their deceased. Just a few weeks after "Georges Fury," the cemeteries were in havoc and many of the town's residents had spent many days in cleaning up around their own homes.

Nevertheless, a job was well done and pictures are here to prove it. Shown are photos with the Garden Club ladies preparing the plot and memorial for further honoring Frances Parks Lewis Butler's grave in Trinity's Live Oak cemetery. Mrs. Butler, 1797 - 1875, was George Washington's great-niece and Martha Washington's great-granddaughter.

The photo at top-left is of the former Indian cemetery, now known as the Baptist cemetery which was cleaned through the spearheading of Councilman Michael Antoine.

The other photos are of St. Paul and Live Oak. Councilman Chipper McDermott, Jean Stanbro, Ken Austin, Dan Ellis, A.C. and Michelle Smith, Mary Catherine Ward, Julia Cerra, and special "detailman" Charles Melson, who steam cleaned the grime off of many of the tombs and headstones.



A Special Merry Christmas to our paid Tricentennial members !

Individuals

J. Warren Alford
Avery & Yvonne Allen
Ken Austin
Janet D. Balch
Dorothy P. Bell
Emanuel V. Benjamin
Adele Bielenberg
Geraldine Bishop
Cornelia Boudreaux
Thomas Bourdin
Isleta Braun
Dorothy Ewing Brown
Mildred H. Bryant
Rev. and Mrs. Bill Buice
George & Nancy Byrne
Helen Currie Caire
Burton & Emilie Cary
Julia Cerra
William & Cecile Clement
Rev. Christopher Colby
John Richard Connor
John W. Cox
Rick & Mac Cromwell
Helen Davis
Frank & Geri Dendis
Jane Dennis
Mr/Mrs Cerre B. Diboll
Don & Minna Doyle
Dan Ellis
Mr. & Mrs. Wallace Farragut
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Fitzpatrick
Weston & Lorraine Folse
Elton & Helen Foster
Julia B. Frye
Charles R. Gallagher
Mrs. Carol Garrett
Wilburt & Margery Geddes
Robert Gildersleeve
Carole Godley
David & Tracy Goff
Charlotte M. Hanson
Robert & Helen Hardie
John E. Harris
Mack R. Herring
Peggy Hesse
Heinz & Frances Hoffmann
Roy & Bonnie Hogan
William S. Hunt
Lark & J.J. Johnson
Margaret Ann Jones
Mr. & Mrs. George Jones
Elaine L. Kidd
Lcdr. & Mrs. Frank C. Koch
Henry Laird
Earl & Evelyn Landry
Eaton & Mary Jane Lang
Captain John H. Lang
Richard Latady
Lloyd J. Lewis
Willa & Leroy Lizana
John & Yvonne Lutenbacher
S.A. & E.G. Lynch
Chipper McDermott
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen McNair
Alan & Marilyn Michel
Jean Moreland
A.K. Northrop, Jr.
Pauline Parker
Thelma & Stephen Pulkowski
LaReta N. Rick
W. Dayton Robinson
F.H. Rolufs
L. Dortothy Row
Steve Saucier
Maurice Scardino
Phil & Mary Schaffer
Jack & Olive Schilling
Drury R. Schneider
Margaret E. Sedgwick
Millie Shea
Ann C. Shirley
D.H. Short II
A.C. & Michelle Smith
Lee & Jean Stanbro
W.K. & Ann Stewart
Capt & Mrs Roy Stoddard
Fred & Jeanne Tagge
Herbert T. Thornton
Margaret A. Tingle
Roy Tipton
B.M. & Signe Wagner
R. Mark Wagner
Richard & Madeline Wagner
Linda R. Wallace
Mary Catherine Ward
Richard L. Ward
Etta A. Williams
Herbert Williams
Dr. & Mrs. James Winchester
Mrs. Thelma Yockey

Businesses

Allen Electric
Braun & Company
Coldwell Banker, Ken Austin
Harbor View Cafe
Harshbarger Heating & A.C.
Latter & Blum, John Harris
State Farm, Steve Saucier
The Old Community Shops
Union Planters Bank
Valentino's Fine Gifts

Organizations

City of Pass Christian
Friends of the Library
Henderson Pt/PC Isles Asso.
P.C. Garden Club
P.C. Hi School Alumni Asso
P.C. Historical Society
Rotary Club of Pass Christian
Timber Ridge Prop. Owners

Footprints in the Pass

Our path leads through Live
Oaks down to the beach
on layered prints in every
shade of sand
to earth. Parades of ghosts
around us reach
to show our place in line with
open hands.

Our Children play where
natives chiseled stones
to points- rode stallions-
squaws nursed babies- boots
stomped prints in search of
river's mouth. Alone
a farmer staked his grant
while pirates loot.

Through rifle shots, high
water marks, men cast
their nets, set sails and boiled
gumbo, waged bets
while oxen plodded Old Pass
Road. Tall masts
flew flags until designs of stars
were set.

Through branches- rough
gray hands- promises drop
like acorns full of dreams for
coming crops.

By *Cecile Brown Clement*
"thinking about Pass Christian's Tricentennial"

Editorial Staff

Jaime Condra
Dan Ellis
Dayton Robinson

Pass Murals
Get underway!

The Pass Christian Art Association in conjunction with Pass Artists have been developing a well organized plan to affix Historic Murals at designated locations.

The exciting plan will be headed by Joida Evans and Tazewell Morton with its first of a promised series on the Griffon Building on Scenic Drive. The theme for this location will be Mardi Gras with the historic painting replica of the first King and Queen of Mardi Gras from 1915.

The idea is to maintain a controlled art form that will be symbiotic to the community that will not lend to a helter skelter appearance.

Whe' yo Butt'n

Wearing your button? If not, lapel pins bearing a colorful Tricentennial Logo are now available through various organizations. For only $3 you can display your support. If you are interested in buying a set of Tricentennial Doubloons, at 25 for $10, contact Margie Hamilton at 452-2435 or Dana Dedeaux at 255-1288.

All of these will be collector's items one day!

Join the Parade!

The Pass Christian Mardi Gras will be using the theme of the Tricentennial. This resulted in Margie Hamilton and Dana Dedeaux are putting together an official Tricentennial Float which will allow a limited number of "riders". For a cost of only $95, the first of 20 persons to sign-up will be in the Parade. Additional costs will be costumes of your choice and carnival throws of your option. There will be Tricentennial Doubloons which will be sold at cost to riders. For more information, contact Margie Hamilton at 452-2435 or Dana Dedeaux at 255-1288.

CIVIL WAR LETTERS

Letter from Bay St. Louis, regarding General Lovell's visit to Mississippi
Bay St. Louis, January 20, 1861

"The able, energetic and ubiquitous Commander-in-Chief of the Department woke us up by daylight, with an announcement of his arrival to inspect the troops posted here under command of Col. E. J. Goode. He had telegraphed the Colonel on Saturday morning, but as usual the telegraph was behind the "Oregon", and was not received till the General's visit was over. Of course he was not received in the manner due to his rank. He scolded terribly at first about the sentinels, etc., but when he came to examine the stalwart forms of the troops, and their glistening guns and soldierly appearance, he was considerably mollified, and expressed himself in terms of the highest approbation. From here he went to Pass Christian, with his staff, and took Col. Magraw by surprise, yet his troops bore a good inspection as well as Capt. Norman's cavalry company.

"When about leaving Blake's Wharf to row out to the "Oregon", we discovered that the *New London* was in chase of the "Pamlico", which had, like the fiery little wasp she is, run out near Ship Island to take an observation. Gen. Lovell very cooly ordered the "Oregon" to head out towards them, to support the "Pamlico", and quietly seated himself in front of the pilot house. I glanced at Capt. Myers, and his eyes sparkled like diamonds, but otherwise he stood there by the pilot house as calm and collected as Admiral Nelson, while he crowded on steam to be in time for the sport. But we were all disappointed. The *New London* turned to fly and apparently discovered, at the same time as we did, the *Massachusetts* coming up to her assistance. Nothing daunted, the saucy little "Pamlico" turned to open fire, which was briskly returned, the balls all falling short. The "Oregon" then returned to the Pass, followed by the "Pamlico" slowly, seeming very loth to quit her antagonist, who likewise retired. The "Oregon" was evident-ly in bad humor, and didn't run half as fast in retreat as when advancing. That quiet smile on the face of her commander, Capt. Myers, is "miching malicho," and means "mischief" when the Yankees are about.

"For the last five or six weeks we have been constantly expecting an attack, and couldn't do well now without the excitement. Our troops have very heavy picket duty to perform, for the want of a cavalry company, but then we have splendid material here for fighting, and hope to give a good account of ourselves when the time comes. Yours, etc.

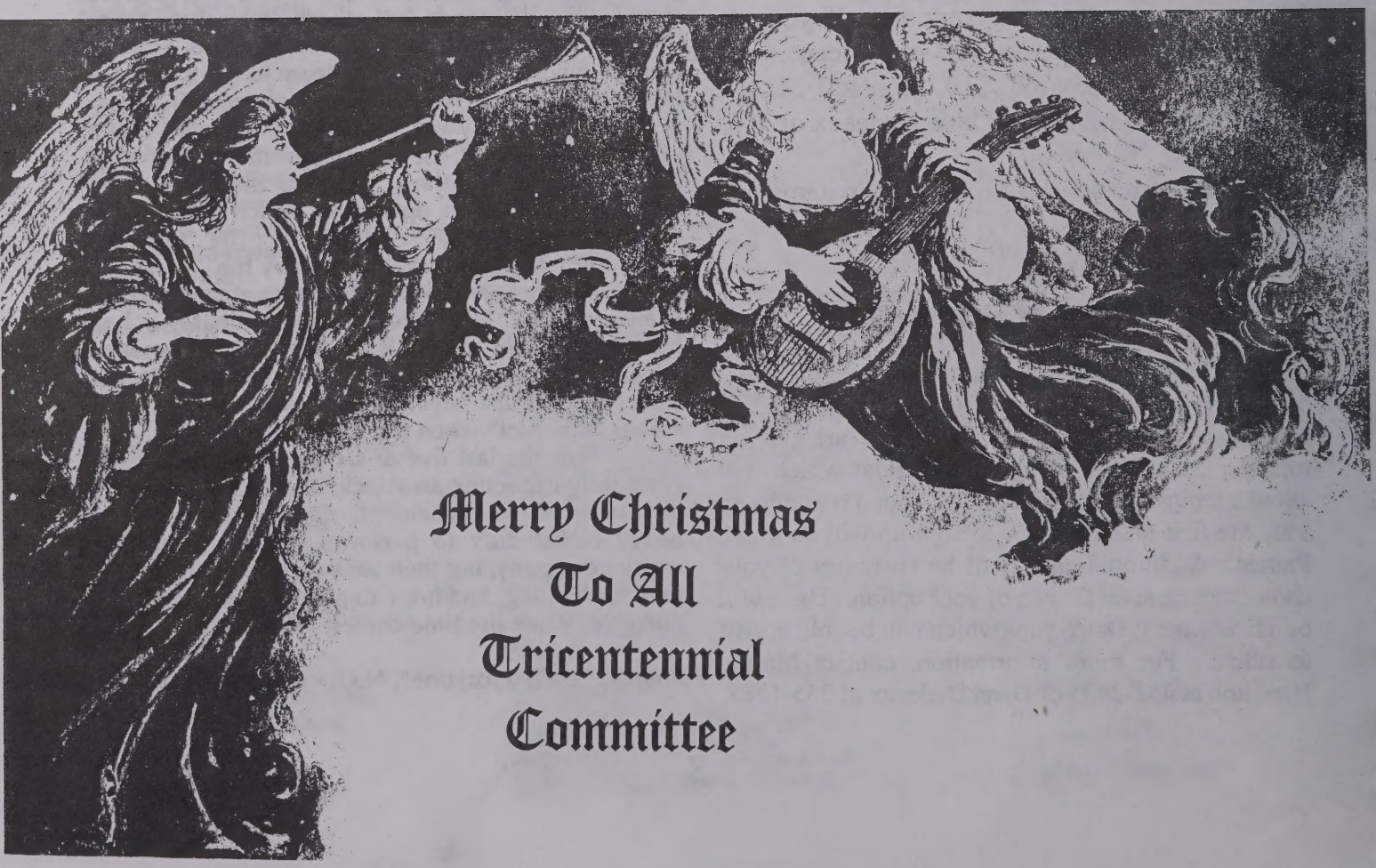
Source: *"Daily Picayune"*, N.O. - Jan. 26, 1862.

PASS CHRISTIAN, MS

The Tricentennial

POB 354
Pass Christian, MS 39571
Change Service Requested.

Non-Profit Organization
U. S. Postage
PAID
Pass Christian, MS
Permit No. 2



Merry Christmas To All Tricentennial Committee